

IN THE SPECIFICATION

REMARKS

Claims 86-107, 109-123, 125 and 126 are pending in this application.

Claims 112 - 123 and 125-132 are allowed;

The drawings are objected to under CFR 1.83(a);

35 USC §112

Claims 86-92 are rejected under 35 USC §112 as containing subject matter not included in the specification including the term “bridge tailpiece”;

Claims 89-93, 104-107 and 109 – 110 are rejected since they recite “second critical point” without a recitation of the first critical point; and

Claims 104-107 and 109 recite “critical distance”.

35 USC §102

Claims 86-92 are rejected under 35 USC §102 in view of Desmond.

35 USC §103

Claims 87-88 are rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) in view of Desmond and Storey.

The rearward surface 177 of the intonation module 170 ~~provides~~ includes the alternate string anchoring point 247 as shown in Fig. 11, the string can be anchored to the end of the intonation module so that string anchor 160 bears against the rearward outer portion 177 of the intonation module 170. This alternate anchoring position of string anchor 160 is illustrated in phantom in Fig. 11. A hole or slot 247 is narrower than the width of the string anchor 160, but wider than the diameter of the string. The string extends though the hole or slot 247 and string anchor 160 bears against the rearward surface 177 to anchor the string.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Figure 11. is amended to include:

- number 177, the rearward portion of intonation module 170, previously presented in phantom only;
- number 246 to denote string anchoring points on the lower portion 140 of spring block or spring blade 240 for receiving anchoring ball 160;
- number 247 to indicate the alternate string anchoring point for receiving anchoring ball 160 on the rearward portion 177 of 170;
- number 248 to indicate the “elongated cylindrical passageway” in the string blade or spring block.

The drawing sheet also includes Figure 10 without amendment.

The drawing sheet now contains the header: “Replacement Sheet”.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The present application is a national stage application filed under 35 USC § 371. Applicant requests acknowledgment that the present application has met the requirements of 35 USC § 371, and accordingly, this application claims the benefit of the international filing date of PCT application PCT/US98/20376, filed on 10/29/1998.

REQUEST FOR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance for claims 86-107, 109-123, 125 and 126 which are pending in this application..

CONCLUSION

All pending claims 86-107, 109-123, 125 and 126 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned applicant before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Lee McCabe

Replacement Sheet

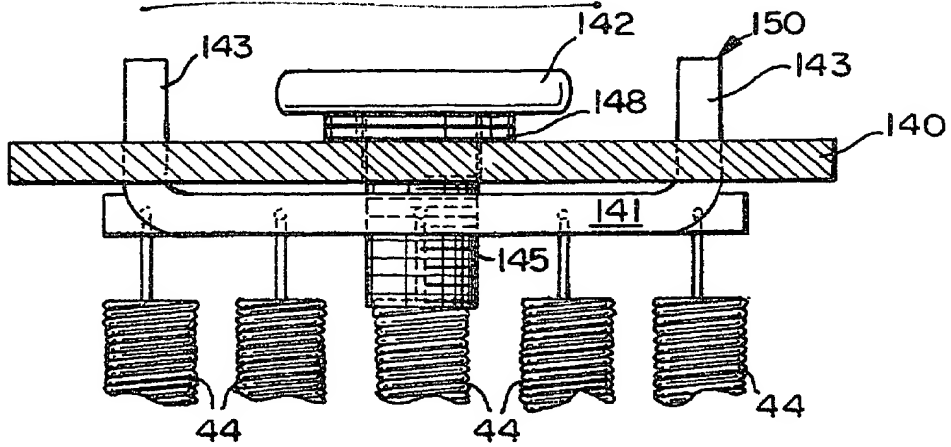


FIG. 10

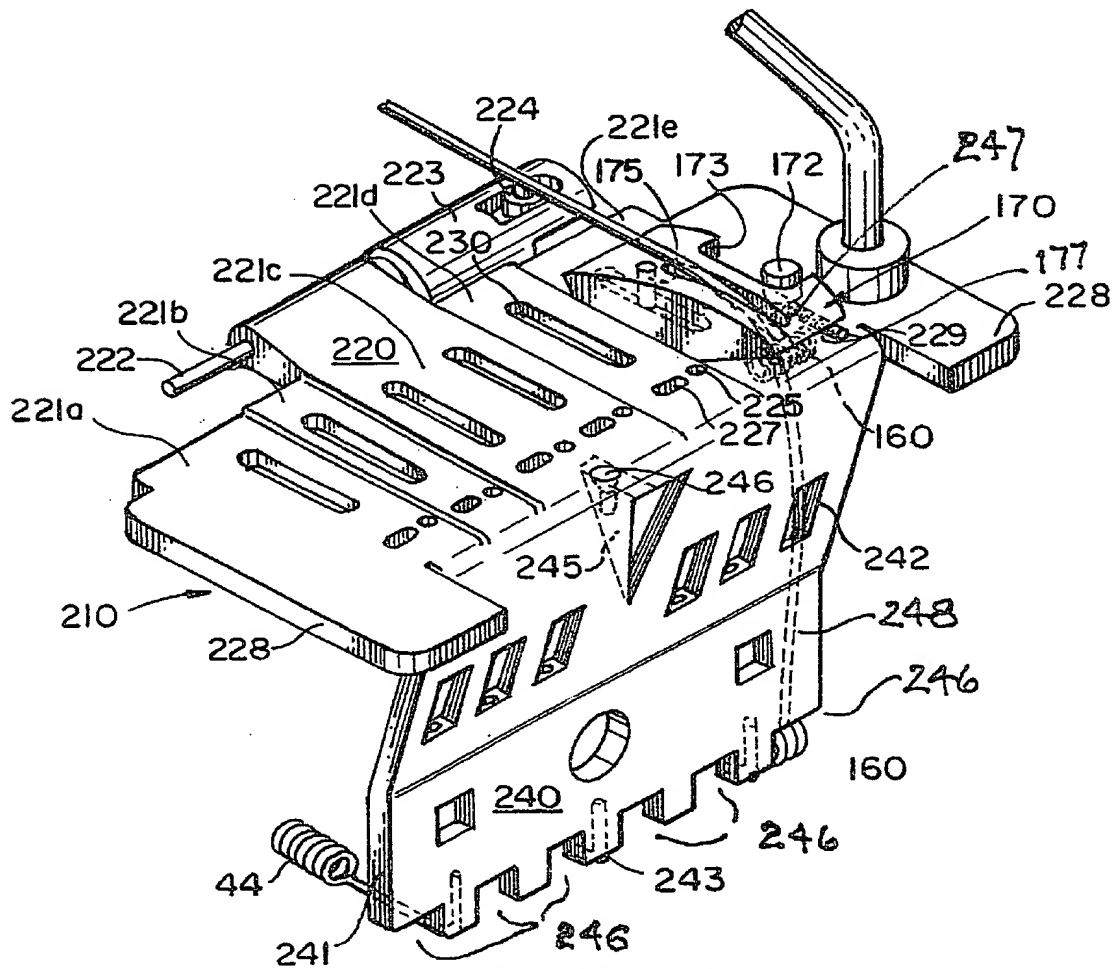


FIG. 11